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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

BORNE RICH FRUIT

ONE year ago, twenty-six nations signed the Washington Declaration by the United Nations. The world situation then was grim indeed. Yet, on that last New Year's day, these nations bound together by the universal ideals of the Atlantic Charter signed an act of faith that military aggression, treaty violation and calculated savagery should be remorselessly overwhelmed by their combined might and that the sacred principles of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness should be restored as cherished ideals of mankind. They thus created the mightiest coalition in history—mighty not only for its overwhelming material force but still more for its eternal spiritual values. Three other nations have since joined that coalition. The unity thus achieved amidst dire danger has borne rich fruit

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, in a statement on January 1

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Running Commentary

The Calcutta Raid : General Wavell's Remarks Recalled.

" Yours is the first capital city in India to suffer in this war a baptism of fire and her citizens have provided an admirable example of steadiness and fortitude. Well done Calcutta ! " This was the message sent by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Governor of Bengal soon after the first enemy air raid on December 20. Since then there have been four more raids on the city. It may be pointed out that the Japanese were in a position to launch these air raids nearly eight months ago. On April 22 last year when Japan was in the plenitude of power, General—now Field Marshal—Wavell said, " The immediate danger is that of air attack . . . Consider the distance the Japanese are from their bases, the enormous area over which their war effort is already dispersed, the vulnerability to sea and air attacks of their line-of-communications towards India." He added, " It is not in the power of the Japanese to bring air attack against the cities of India on anything approaching the scale, intensity or continuity of the German attack on Great Britain or of our attack on Germany." Calcutta's experience bears out the soundness of General Wavell's observations. The raids have been on a small scale and are as nothing as compared with enemy raids on Britain or the R.A.F. raids on Germany. It may be recalled that the *Luftwaffe* dropped, during the blitz on London, as much as 450 tons of bombs in a single raid. The R.A.F., in the course of its 1,000-bomber raid on Cologne in May last year, dropped 3,000 tons of bombs in 90 minutes. It is no doubt true that raids of this type are of an exceptional character. But the fact remains that now-a-days 200-bombers of the R.A.F. drop on an average 450 tons in a raid and that such raids are fairly frequent.

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Japan, a Wounded Tiger—Must Strike Somewhere.

Can Japan launch raids of this character ? It can, if it possessed in Burma scores of aerodromes, a very large trained ground personnel, a well-knit system of communications and factories manufacturing munitions of war. Inherently these facilities are

GREETINGS

The following message was received from the Officer Commanding another Madras Squadron of the R.A.F. by His Excellency the Governor of Madras :—

All personnel send their best wishes to Your Excellency and people of Madras Presidency, and thank Your Excellency for kind Christmas message.

His Excellency has received the following message from yet another Madras Squadron of the R.A.F. For security reasons, the number of the squadron or the place of origin of the message is not mentioned :—

" Officer Commanding and airmen of squadron thank Your Excellency and the people of Madras Presidency for greetings and send to all in Madras best wishes for the New Year."

largely unobtainable in Burma. Further the R.A.F. and the 10th American Air Force see to it that Japan is not allowed any respite. It is of interest to mention in this connexion that the American Air Force in their raid on Heho on December 26th dropped bombs which were greater in weight than that dropped by the Japanese in their first four air raids on Calcutta. In fact the Allied air forces have been plastering the enemy-occupied military targets in Burma. As General Clayton Bissen remarked at a press conference on December 26th, the enemy aerodromes in Burma were constantly under fire and he was shifting his air force from one to the other. Further the Allied advance into the Arakan Division required some sort of reply from Japan. The Calcutta raid was, however, a very poor reply indeed! The Japanese bombers came by night and the fact that they were flown very high is a tribute to Calcutta's fighter-craft and A.A. guns. The high morale of the citizens of Calcutta at the time of these raids was commended by the Viceroy, the Bengal Governor and the Premier of the Province.

The raids on Calcutta are nothing but an obvious move in the offensive tactics intended to conceal the defensive character of Japanese strategy. Japan is like a wounded tiger; it is far from exhausted and it has to hit somewhere. Calcutta was a near and important target. An attack on it could well be utilized for purposes of propaganda by Japan. In these raids, the Japanese have used anti-personnel bombs, thus belying their own propaganda that their bombs are directed only against military installations.

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Advance Into Arakan, Not a Regular Invasion of Burma.

We have referred to the Allied advance into the Arakan Division. This has caused a thrill of interest and excitement throughout India. But it is necessary to understand the exact position and not allow speculation to outrun facts. As stated in the Indian Command's communique of December 19th, troops have crossed the Burmese frontier between Chittagong and Akyab and occupied the Maungdaw-Buthidaung area, which is about 60 miles north-west of Akyab. This advance of about half-way from the frontier to Akyab is an improvement in the Allied positions, for Maungdaw is at the mouth of the Naf river, which is navigable for 30 miles of its course, and Buthidaung is due east of Maungdaw and is connected with it by road. The control of Maungdaw gives us a double advantage. Firstly, it can be used for bringing supplies by sea, and secondly, the river Naf can supplement the military road as a means of communication on the land side.

(*Continued on page* 6.)

GENERAL WAVELL, India's great Commander-in-Chief, has been made a Field Marshal. The above photograph was taken on the occasion of a recent inspection of forward positions on the north-east frontier. During this visit he crossed the Burma border. Here he is seen with an influential local Burmese chief. A British civil officer is also in the party.

Russia: Prospects of Victory

IN a review of the war broadcast on New Year's Eve, M. Kalinin, the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, said that the offensive spirit of the Russian people was rising from day to day; it was increasing their productivity; the Red Army was being well supplied with everything it needed by the great efforts of Russian workers and collective farmers. "The prospects of victory can be seen clearer on the threshold of 1943," declared the Soviet President, "Our united effort will give us victory in the near future under the leadership of our great Chief, M. Stalin." He pointed out that the position in Russia was now more advantageous than it was a year ago. For, this year the enemy's offensive was not carried out on the whole front, but only on the south and south-western sectors. The Russian offensive at Stalingrad and on the Central front, as well as in the Middle Don and the North Caucasus, had changed the situation in Russia's favour. Over two-thousand inhabited localities, district centres and towns had been captured by the Red Army.

Three Stages of the Offensive

In an impressive review of six weeks' fighting in Southern Russia, the Soviet Information Bureau has given a detailed account of the progress of these Russian successes. It refers to three stages of the Russian offensive in the Stalingrad area. Firstly, the Red Army began to assume the offensive north-east and south-west of Stalingrad. Powerful blows were inflicted on the enemy in the south-western Don and the Stalingrad fronts. The second stage was the offensive of the Russian troops in the area of the Middle Don. They were entrusted with the task of effecting a break-through on this front, penetrating the defences of the enemy to the rear in the Don bend, and preventing German troops surrounded on the approaches to Stalingrad from escaping or being relieved from outside. This task was skilfully carried out. The third part of the offensive was staged south of Stalingrad. The German Command which led its troops at Stalingrad into a blind alley attempted desperately to relieve its troops surrounded by the Red Army, and launched an offensive in the area north of Kotelnikovo, but Soviet troops operating south of Stalingrad were instructed by the Soviet High Command to rout the new enemy concentration, to roll the Germans south and deprive them of the last chance of breaking-through to the German divisions surrounded at Stalingrad. Thus the encirclement and the defeat of the German and Fascist troops on the approaches to Stalingrad were carried out in three stages.

Two-fold Objectives

The Russian objectives in the great winter offensive may be said to be of a two-fold character. The first is the improvement of their tactical positions wherever possible and the stretching of the German resources to their fullest limit. The second objective is to cause a general retreat of the German troops. We are now concerned only with the first objective. In this the Russians have achieved great successes by following their

own distinctive plan. The German plan is to deal a sledge-hammer blow in one place, break through by sheer weight of numbers, and follow through with thousands of vehicles. But the Russian plan is to deal a series of blows of gradually increasing intensity in different parts of the front and produce a simultaneous disintegration throughout the front.

Though complete success has not yet been achieved in the carrying out of this plan, the working of it can clearly be seen. The offensive at Stalingrad and in the Don bend compelled the Germans to bring up their reserves in order to release the troops encircled by the Red Army at Stalingrad. The Russian offensive in the north aimed at the whole lateral system of enemy communications upon which the free movement of German reserves depends, and it has forced the Germans to bring in more reserves to save their communications. The attack in the Middle Don was aimed at a point from which German reserves may have been moved either north or south, and this has had the effect of drawing on German troops intended to rest in winter.

Future Course of Campaign

The future course of the Russian campaign will depend upon a number of factors which are not now clearly known. Have the Germans any unused reserves ? If so, can they move them in time to places where they are urgently required ? Can the Russians maintain their advance and can they bring forward their supplies quickly enough to enable them to continue it ? Will the winter weather which seems to be milder than last year, continue for some time longer ? There are three possibilities. The Germans may produce reserves to stop the latest gap, or they may bring reserves from their troops recuperating in the rear and thereby weaken themselves for the spring, or they may be forced into a general retreat in the depth of winter.

Whatever it be, one thing seems clear. Hitler is faced with the problem of switching all reserves without leaving a spot where a break-through might occur—a break-through which, under the Russian system of attack, might develop into a general defeat of the German forces. It seems as though the real issue may be decided only in spring, for which Stalin is preparing. In the West, the British and the Americans are also preparing for a great and mighty effort to deal a smashing blow at Hitler's "Fortress of Europe."

In the Centre of the Ring

The wonder of it all is that the Russians, after suffering losses in men, territory and war resources, that would have taken the heart out of most people and thrown them out of the ring, have stood the ground. They are not even leaning against the ropes : they have moved into the centre of the ring and are dealing out powerful straight lefts to the enemy's body. The recapture of Nalchik, key town on the Caucasus Mountain roads, announced on Tuesday night, is one such powerful blow.

The prospects of a great Russian victory, to which M. Kalinin referred, are now brighter than they have ever been before. The Red Army has definitely seized the initiative on the entire battlefront in Russia, and Stalin's master plan to immobilise and eat into German reserves must tire the enemy and bring him down.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 3.*)

This move into Arakan may be described as an exercise in aggressive defence. It should not be considered as the beginning of a regular invasion, but as a local operation successful in its execution and convenient in its effects. This is not a move eastwards into Burma proper, but southwards along the coastal tract of Arakan. There lies a range of steep and jungle-covered mountains between Arakan and the rest of Burma, where the rainfall is the heaviest in the world. Control of the whole of this strip would still leave a formidable barrier to be crossed into Burma proper.

* * * *

Situation in North Africa—Estimate of Darlan—New French Leader

Political conditions in North Africa after the assassination of Admiral Darlan continue to be in a state of flux. Darlan by throwing in his lot with the Allies barely a month before his death saved for the Allies, according to Mr. Stimson's calculation, at least a month's time and perhaps 15,000 lives. The career of this most enigmatic figure in the history of war-time France will be a subject of controversy for many years to come. The full story will be known only after the war is over when all the records are opened and published, but it may be stated that he was, according to his lights, a patriotic Frenchman. Love of the French Fleet was his ruling passion. He was completely disillusioned by constant German bad faith, and he seized the first opportunity of joining the Allies when the Nazis broke the Armistice. Darlan's action shows how German methods have outraged even those who, having no hope of Allied victory, were willing to negotiate with their conquerors. Darlan, the ruler of North Africa, has been well summed up by General Eisenhower. The United States General said, " He never, so far as I know, broke his word in attempting to carry out anything he promised."

Frenchmen in North Africa have found a great leader in General Giraud who is the first heroic figure thrown up by France after General de Gaulle. His appointment as leader of the North African French has been widely welcomed. A Fighting French spokesman said in Washington recently that General Giraud was undoubtedly the best man available and that he, more than any other, was in a position to reconcile effectively all patriotic elements in the French colonies and in France itself. General Eisenhower said that he was delighted to have a man of such standing and character to deal with. There are, however, certain difficulties in the way of a general reconciliation. Though a preliminary contact has taken place between the Fighting French leader and General Giraud, there seem to be some differences of opinion regarding the elimination of the present Imperial Council in North Africa. But things are bound to come to some settlement or other in due course.

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CLOTHING FOR INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Information has been received that the War Office in London have supplied complete outfits of battle-dress, boots and greatcoats for all Indian soldiers taken prisoner of war in the Middle East. The Red Cross have also despatched two shirts, two vests, two underpants, three pairs of socks and one pullover for each prisoner.

A report received from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva indicates that all Indian prisoners of war in German and Italian hands are now supplied with special clothing for the winter and that sufficient stocks of clothing, etc., for replacements are held at Geneva. Clothing parcels are also being sent by the Indian Comforts Fund Section of the British Red Cross Society, at the rate of 700 per week in order to maintain these stocks.

Arrangements have been made for the supply of suitable headgear for Indian prisoners of war and stores of these are now being despatched to Geneva through the British Red Cross Society.

The Invisible War

By WICKHAM STEED

BEHIND the visible military fronts in this war an invisible struggle of unknown quality and extent is proceeding on what may be called political and moral fronts. Every Allied success increases the intensity of this struggle.

The other day an important member of an Allied Government in London said that secret reports from many parts of Europe were compelling him to believe that, unless tension on the invisible front relaxed, something would crack or explode among the peoples of the Axis or those subject to Axis control. He had striven against this belief because he was anxious not to deceive himself or mislead his Government. Yet evidence was becoming too strong to be rejected as insufficient.

EFFECT OF ALLIED SUCCESSES

Certain it is that the Allied successes in North Africa have caused a ferment throughout the Balkan peninsula and even in Finland. Some time ago a Nazi organ in Rumania protested indignantly against rejoicings among Rumanians over the Anglo-American landings in Morocco and Algeria. In Italy cries for peace become louder with every British and American air raid on Turin or Naples. In Finland symptoms of warweariness are frequent. In France Laval publicly recognizes strong opposition to collaboration with Germany when he announces his determination to stop it. The population of the coastal districts of Holland is being removed into the interior. Even in Germany nervous unrest is spreading, though the German people have not yet been told either of German losses in Russia or of Rommel's withdrawal from El Agheila without giving battle.

OUSTING THE AXIS FROM AFRICA

Militarily the North African fighting may decide the fate of Italy. Morally the expulsion of Axis forces from Tripoli and Tunis would be likely to decide whether Hitler and Mussolini can keep the Italian people in the war. The process of ousting the Axis from Tunis may be hard and slow. More than 400 miles of waterless desert remain to be crossed before the remnants of Rommel's Afrika Korps can be driven to the Tunisian border. Meanwhile much may depend militarily and morally upon the success or failure of Hitler's commanders to save the German divisions surrounded between the Don and the Volga and to stop the loss of those in the Caucasus, Crimea and South-Eastern Russia. Nor is it only a question of avoiding military disaster. The German grip on Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece is at stake. The last vestige of faith in German victory would vanish among Hitler's satellites just as fear of

A Torpedo School for the Royal Indian Navy was opened at Jamnagar a few days ago. The opening ceremony was performed by Her Highness the Maharani of Nawanagar. Photo shows Her Highness inspecting the Guard of Honour.

permanent enslavement would vanish among his victims. The invisible moral struggle would then produce visible effects.

JAPANESE DEFEATS

To these possibilities in Europe must be added the imponderable influence of the Japanese defeats in New Guinea and of the full restoration of Madagascar to Fighting French rule by agreement between Britain and General de Gaulle. Throughout India, Burma, China and the Southern Pacific these events will be seen to foreshadow the ultimate overthrow of Japan. In those wide regions also Japan will feel the growing strain of the moral struggle.

NOT A BRAKE ON EFFORT

Far from interpreting these relatively favourable circumstances as pledges of a swift or easy triumph, the British Government and people, like those of the United States, are determined to intensify their exertions against the enemy. The British age-limits for military service may be extended to include boys of 17 and men of 50. Out of a population of 33,000,000 men and women of working age, 22,000,000 are already doing war work. This number will shortly be increased. In Britain there is neither warweariness nor unwillingness for further effort and sacrifice. Victory which for three years was a matter of faith—sometimes a lonely, obstinate faith—is now seen to be within the grasp of the Allied nations if they throw their whole moral as well as material force into the task of seizing and holding it.

On the Allied side too the tension of the moral struggle is growing greater. Yet it is not accompanied by any feeling of strain. It is the tension of body and mind that marks the supreme successful effort of an athlete to reach the winning post and to break all records in gaining the prize.

Role of Airplane and Telephone

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

IT is a spectacular thing that President Roosevelt could write a note to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and have it delivered in facsimile in Chungking within an hour or so.

That sort of communication will certainly facilitate relations between nations. Yet it is not as spectacular or as important as facilities which are already being used to bring the heads of the Allied Governments into closer contact with each other.

One of the best stories going around Washington now relates to a supposed telephone conversation on post-war questions between President Roosevelt in Washington and the Generalissimo in Chungking. A telephone conversation between the White House and No. 10, Downing Street, and with Moscow, is as simple as a telephone conversation around Washington.

POWER OF THE AIRPLANE

The making of personal contacts by airplane is much easier. Prime Minister Churchill has been here twice since Pearl Harbour and has been to Moscow. Soviet Foreign Commissar Molotov has been to London and Washington. Admirals and generals of the High Command have gone back and forth between Allied countries frequently. It is not much more of a problem that of getting from Washington to San Francisco.

Of course there are a great many differences between this war and the last one, and I think that likewise there will be many differences in working out the peace. One of the most important differences this time is the facility of contact among the leaders of the United Nations.

The men who are running this war and who will make the peace can talk face to face, and between times can converse by telephone.

THE COMMON STRUGGLE

Our common struggle against evil and cruelty, against that denial of human personality which lies at the base of the Nazi and Fascist creeds has brought together Christian and Jew, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist, and the free followers of every religion in the world, as well as those who belong to no Church but are nonetheless convinced supporters of essential decencies and spiritual values, which lie at the root of all religions.

—SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, *in a speech in London, on January 1.*

A Negotiated Peace is Impossible

By LORD STRABOLGI

THERE has been a certain amount of discussion recently as to the possibility of the second world war being terminated by a negotiated peace, with neither group of combatants decisively defeated. Promoters of such efforts can always plead the sanction of humanitarianism. That the majority of Italian people in all walks of life would welcome peace on almost any terms at the earliest possible moment is well known and established. Leaders of their German ally would probably welcome a negotiated peace as soon as possible also, and there is little doubt that the majority of their followers would accept it even more gladly. For rather different reasons their Japanese partner will be equally ready.

WHAT THE GERMANS KNOW

In Germany the General Staff as well as leading members of Hitler's entourage knew perfectly well that the Axis in Europe has no hope left of gaining a decisive victory, or indeed any other kind of victory. The best that they can hope for now is a stalemate, and this is tacitly accepted by Hitler himself and by other leaders in their public declarations to the German people that they will now concentrate on defensive strategy.

Japan's position is different in that she has gained the main objectives of her preliminary campaigns. She has the necessary raw materials and foodstuffs for a long struggle and is well placed strategically. It would be a great advantage, nevertheless, for Japan, whose resources have been badly strained, to be granted a period for recuperation and economic digestion of the vast territories that she has conquered.

NOT AN ORDINARY WAR

If this were an ordinary nationalistic or dynastic struggle, powerful elements might be found in the councils of the United Nations ready to give serious consideration to the possibility of a negotiated peace. But it is not an ordinary war, and it is impossible for the Governments of the British Empire, the United States and Russia to lend themselves to any parleys or discussions to that end. In Britain, for example, no Government could last 48 hours if it were suspected of readiness to negotiate an armistice at the present time.

The principal reason for this feeling and determination, shared by all peoples of the United Nations, is that this time an end is to be made of the institution of war. The immense sacrifices already endured and those still to be faced would be grudged but for the belief that, when this second world war has ended, there will never be a repetition. Means must be taken to remove the possibility of future aggressions by the disarmament and control of the Axis Powers. That would be impracticable until they had been decisively defeated and deprived of the means of further resistance.

DESIRE FOR RETRIBUTION

Secondly, there is a genuine and very serious demand for retribution. The methods employed by the Germans in Poland and in a number of other countries as well would have been thought impossible in the 20th century. They have given rise to such horror and alarm that the infliction of punishment on their perpetrators is accepted both as a moral duty and as a safeguard for the future. Any peace or compromise with either the Germans or the Japanese which would leave them in a position to renew war at some future date is unthinkable.

Lastly, and even more important is the ideological conflict which has been exposed in this second world war. It is impossible for the Fascist and democratic systems to exist side by side in the modern world. The one or the other must be destroyed.

France on the Road to Victory

"When the Allies disembarked in North Africa, they put France on the road which leads to Victory. General Giraud has shown his ardent desire that we should participate in the war. We are under his command. I am sure that high officials of the American Military Mission will facilitate our co-operation in the war of liberation. This is only the beginning. The tempo of our activities will accelerate in the near future."

—M. PIERRE BOISSON, *Governor-General of French West Africa, on January* 4.

We'll Work to Win

By PHILIP MURRAY, *President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations*

OUR President is now our Commander-in-Chief in a world war which threatens not only our nation's security and our very lives, but all our freedoms, our way of life, and our living standards, as no previous war has ever done. There can be no question of the response of true American working men and women to the demands of our Commander-in-Chief in such a war. It is the wholehearted and euthusiastic response of true American working men and women to the demands of our Commander-in-Chief in such a war. It is the wholehearted and enthusiastic response of good soldiers of democracy, who know that everything depends upon united and disciplined support of our great leader.

But I can go much further than this. For I speak for the working people, who have more at stake in this war than perhaps any other section of our population. We are fighting nations whose economy is based on slave labour. In Germany, Italy and Japan there are no labour unions. On the contrary, the first aim of any Nazi or Fascist movement is to destroy the labour unions. Labour leaders are stood up against the wall and shot. Workers who seek better conditions in the shop are hounded, beaten, placed in concentration camps or murdered.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY ON LABOUR

Without union, protection and without democracy, the workers are ground down to extremely low wage levels and intolerable working conditions. They are treated as voiceless instruments of their dictators, their war lords and their industrialists. In every country conquered by Hitler and his gang, like conditions, or even worse, have been imposed on the working population.

We know that this is labour's war. We of labour are and must continue to be leaders in the demand for more production and for every step that is necessary to win the war.

We pledge our complete and wholehearted support to our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, for the achievement of the production goals which he has set. In doing so, we are mindful that upon the shoulders of labour rests the primary responsibility for achieving those goals.

Mr. Donald Nelson, our Production Chief, has announced a concrete programme for increasing and speeding up war production. We welcome this programme most heartily and pledge our enthusiastic co-operation for placing it into execution. In fact, we of the Congress of the Industrial Organizations take pride in the knowledge that we have been pioneers and leaders in the demand for just such a programme for mobilizing American industry for all-out war production. We were the first to put forward concrete proposals for producing more steel, more aluminium, more copper, more airplanes and more of all the other goods and services that are needed for victory. The goals cannot be set too high.

FIRST CONSIDERATION

Labour's position is firm and consistent—that winning the war must be our first consideration, and that nothing must be allowed to interrupt war production. Labour itself was the first, of its own free will, to advance an effective programme for the ending of strikes. No sooner was war declared than both the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labour, assembled in conference with representatives of industry and government, solemnly pledged themselves to set aside the strike weapon for the duration of the war. We also advanced proposals, accepted by the President, for the peaceful solution of all labour disputes, through mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

There has not been a single authorized strike in a war industry since that time, and all the efforts of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and its unions have been directed to ending at once such minor incidents as have occurred.

168-HOUR WORKING WEEK

Production Chief Nelson has called for a 168-hour working week for the machinery of industry. We are wholeheartedly in favour of working our plant and equipment every hour of the week that it can be utilized. Our unions, in many cases, have been the first to call for 24-hour and seven-day week production.

To labour, and particularly to the members of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, whom I have the honour to represent, I say: Get on the job at once! Heed the call of our Commander-in-Chief and our country! Let our slogan be: Work, work, work! Produce, produce, produce!

The Russians say:

"Come to me in small numbers and I will defeat you. Come to me in large numbers and you will defeat yourselves."

Story of a Secret Expedition

THE valuable experience gained at Dieppe and in the commando raids greatly helped the Allied forces under General Eisenhower, writes the *Observer* special correspondent.

This is revealed in the new details which have now become available of the part of the British planning and organization played in the operation in North Africa. The details provide a story of completely unselfish Anglo-American co-operation from the start to the finish.

In Great Britain the naval and military forces, both British and American, were trained at the combined training centres whose work to-day is becoming more and more important.

These centres are under the orders of the Chief of Combined Operations, Vice-Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten.

MASS PRODUCTION OF CREWS

On the naval side they are able to mass-produce from raw material to the finished article, landing craft and crews, beach-masters and other essential personnel.

On the military side they instruct trained troops of infantry armoured regiments and artillery in the art of becoming amphibious,

INDIA PROVIDES ITS OWN CARRIERS.—Many rulers of Indian States and communities are giving money for the purchase of Carriers. The armaments of these vehicles vary slightly, but all carry a Bren gun on an Ack-Ack mounting. The armour plating is entirely made by the Indian State Railways. Photo shows carriers on Ack-Ack defence exercises.

As soon as General Eisenhower was assigned command of the Allied expeditionary force, he asked the Combined Operations Headquarters to provide him with several complete inter-service planning syndicates.

These syndicates, which included American officers attached to the Combined Operations Headquarters produced outline plans for assaults on all the beaches. They were based on the experience gathered at Dieppe and elsewhere. In addition the experts of all three services flew to the United States to assist the planning there.

that is to be able to live in a parent ship and become expert in the use of landing craft.

They also instruct units of the Royal Air Force regiment in similar tactics.

Apart from the British troops, four American regimental combat teams, equivalent of British Brigade groups, were trained by the staffs of these C.T.Cs.

The First Army also sent instructors to these centres. On the return of their units, they completed the training of their own men.

The engineering and maintenance of all landing craft requires a high degree of training. Several thousand British and American officers and naval ratings went through these courses.

COMPLEX PROBLEMS

Problems of communications were extraordinarily complex. General Eisenhower decided that the Combined Operations Command was the only organization capable of working out a signals system for assault involving the navies, armies and air forces of the U.S.A. and the British Empire. Other special problems included navigational aids for ships and aircraft and the organization of signal stations on landing beaches.

For special headquarters, ships were fitted with operation rooms equipped to the last detail as combined naval, military and air Headquarters afloat. These ships carried out their task to perfection.

Before the expedition sailed, elaborate exercises in landing and assault were conducted by all the British and American forces based on Great Britain under the supervision of the Combined Training Centre. In all these exercises the closest secrecy was maintained.

LANDING CRAFT

It can now be revealed that in addition to the several hundred landing craft, the Combined Operations Command provided its own ocean-going assault ships.

These ships are larger and faster than the cross-channel raiding vessels which took part in the previous operations. All ships required special outfitting, particularly as regards the hoisting of the gear for landing craft. The Combined Operations Command used its own craft for inter-port ferrying. Complete secrecy was kept and the destination and objective of the expedition was unknown to all except the planners and the Commanding Officers until it passed through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Italy's Growing Confusion

MESSAGES reaching Berne from Italy reveal a growing confusion which is being created by the mass evacuation of people, alarmed by the Royal Air Force raids, from the largest cities, cables the *Daily Telegraph* Berne correspondent.

It is stated that nearly two-thirds of the population is to be moved. About half the population of Turin and Genoa has already been evacuated and others are leaving Florence, Bologna and Trieste. Roads and railways everywhere are packed with "refugees" whose movement has dislocated whole transport services.

Italian newspapers complain about the strain placed on train and road services. Offices and shops, they say, are also having to solve the problem of depleted staffs. The mass evacuation has also complicated the education problem although the closing of many schools is said officially to be due to lack of coal. Between December 28 and the middle of February 300,000 children are to be educated by radio.

The Italian Government in an effort to allay discontent among the public is trying to devise a scheme to save the capital from aerial bombardment, according to Rome messages. All "military objectives", these reports say, are being removed from Rome in the hope of inducing Allied air forces to refrain from attacking the city. It is stated that the Pope is behind the scheme.

Unity of Purpose and Common Effort

"Our people and the people of the United Nations will need to have in future, as they have to-day, unity of purpose and willingness to make appropriate indispensable contributions towards the achievement of military victory and towards the establishment and maintenance of peace that will endure. With unity of purpose and common effort, there can be achieved peace that will open to all mankind greater opportunity than has ever before existed for the welfare and progress in every avenue of human endeavour."

—MR. CORDELL HULL, *in an introduction to U.S. White Paper on foreign policy, published on January 3.*

The End of a Legend

By OSWALD DUTCH

IN 1933, when Hitler seized power, one thing was drummed into the German population which was to form the backbone of the whole Nazi regime: "We are invincible." And it is only logical that, together with the myth of Hitler's godlike personality, the omnipotence of the National Socialist Party and the infallibility of dictatorial decisions, a legend should have been woven around the new German army.

The first years of the war seemed to confirm this myth. The German population had long since lost its faith in Hitler's godlike personality and the omnipotence and infallibility of his organization; but, in spite of setbacks in Russia in the winter of 1941–42 (which had never been fully acknowledged), confidence in the German army had not been shaken until these last few weeks.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The German population was never told anything of the one great defeat that was to prove decisive for the course of war—the loss of the Battle of Britain in the autumn of 1940. Even now no German seems to know exactly what happened then. At the outset of the war Goering actually seems to have believed that the "German fortress" was unassailable from the air and at first German generals were also convinced that this war could be fought out at lightning speed and without setbacks.

Goering's assurances were given the lie a year ago, and now the other legend—that of the invincibility of the German army—has also come to an end.

NEW WATCHWORD

Rommel's retreat from El Alamein was still represented to the German public as a great tactical victory. This, however, was the last attempt to deceive the home front regarding the real situation of the German army. Those who returned from Russia knew too much of the situation around Stalingrad, and Rommel's latest retreat at El Agheila cannot possibly be described as a success of the "greatest German General." German propaganda has, therefore, had to make a complete volte face. The watchword now given out is: "No army can be proof against setbacks, not even the German army."

HERCULES AND HYDRA

This has made the fallacy of Goebbels' propaganda manifest to the German population and to the whole world. Lieutenant-General Dietmar, speaking for the German Army Command, was forced to admit in his explanations regarding the situation on the Eastern Front on December 12: "Local reverses could of course not always be avoided when faced with such a powerful opponent . . . Only at one point has the enemy succeeded in hammering a deep indentation into our defensive positions. We may say that the resultant situations were in some respects very grave. The German people must have no illusions regarding the severity of the fighting everywhere—but particularly at Stalingrad. Once again we have seen what masses of men the Soviets can still bring up against us. Our fight against them is like Hercules' fight with the hydra, many-headed dragon of Greek legend, whose severed heads always grew again."

EFFECT OF CONFESSION

What Dietmar said about Russia had already been said three days before—on December 9, 1942, in the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* by Halfeld on the subject of events in North Africa. "Our campaign," he wrote, "will perhaps not be free from setbacks, and reverses must be expected in every war. In Africa the Allies have certainly succeeded in removing Rommel's threat to Egypt."

Although the truth of the situation has long ago dawned on the German public—in so far as it is still able to think—confession of these defeats has first and foremost profoundly shaken the self-confidence of the German army. However illusory or false the faith might have been, it was something to hold on to. This last bulwark has now been destroyed. Soldiers who have once been beaten cannot possibly be as self-confident as troops who have lived surrounded by the glamour of invincibility and in fact for two years were invincible.

Opponents of the German army now also know that this legend of invincibility was but a fairy tale. And this has considerable influence not only on self-confidence but also on strength and success.

—(*Condensed from an article.*)

A New Situation

Hitler is now faced with a new situation, no longer having the monopoly of initiative in Europe and forced to envisage the dreaded war on two fronts . . . . . . Russia must be sustained to the utmost in our joint interest. Our own staying power depends on sea communications, and this is a decisive factor in the war.

—LORD HANKEY, in an article in *The Sunday Times*, on January 3.

Prospect of Mediterranean Battle

By CAPT. V. CHEKUROV

THE successful landing of Anglo-American troops on the African coast and the occupation of a number of support points there together with the British offensive in Libya have completely changed the situation in the Mediterranean.

It is now clear that Axis attempts to entrench in Africa have suffered a defeat.

The Mediterranean is a closed theatre of military operations; both ocean exits—Gibraltar and the Suez Canal—are in the hands of the British. Our Allies are able to control the correlation of surface craft. At the same time the Allies are extending their bases along the North African coast.

As for the Italian navy, it still bears traces of heavy blows inflicted on it by the British. Its losses in the course of the war have greatly decreased its fighting activity. Some of its ships have had to be docked for extensive repairs and others prefer to keep to the Adriatic ports.

GROWING ALLIED STRENGTH

Since the outbreak of war, the strength of the Allied navies is growing steadily step by step with the development of operations in the Mediterranean. If need be, Britain and the United States of America can assemble a numerical strength that will give them considerable superiority over the united navies of the Axis powers. Even before landing on the northern coast of Africa, the Allied navies were firmly established in the Mediterranean. Gibraltar and Alexandria close both the ocean exits. The forces based there threaten the flanks of the territory captured by the Axis powers.

The coast of French North Africa affords our Allies many naval bases. Casablanca, situated on the Atlantic coast, can accommodate a large number of modern warships. From this base the Allies can secure their communications in the southern waters of the Atlantic. Casablanca and Rabat, bases farthest removed from the enemy territory, can also serve as intermediary ports for materials in transit to the Allied armies in Africa.

CAN INFLICT A HAMMER BLOW

With strong air support, powerful Allied naval groups are in a position to operate extensively throughout the Mediterranean. This will compel the Italian navy either to split its forces along several directions from the very start and so weaken itself or test its manœuvrability by throwing the bulk of the craft in the most menaced directions from its bases in Southern Italy. This will not save the enemy from destruction, however, for the Allies can concentrate in every one of these areas groups numerically superior to the whole Italian navy.

The possession of the North African coast will give the Allies naval and air bases which will enable them to strengthen their forces in the Mediterranean still further and get the upper hand over the enemy. In this theatre, the Allies can inflict a hammer blow which the Axis will not be in a position to avert—*Soviet War News.*

A Speech from "Mrs. Miniver"

(An outstanding War film.)

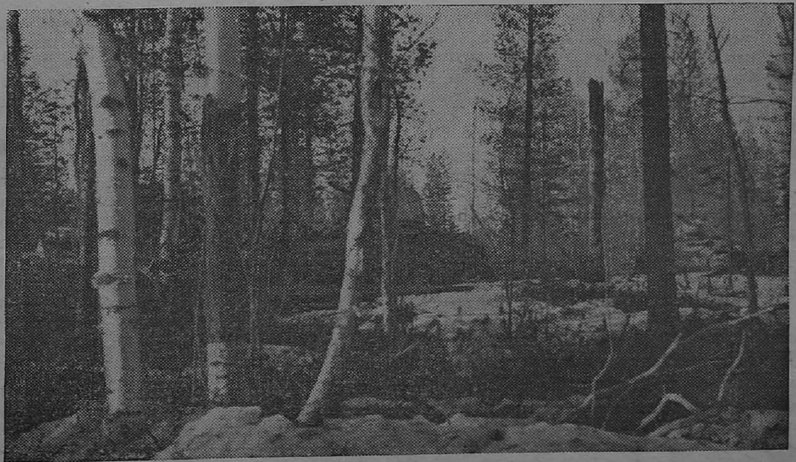
"We, in this quiet corner of England, have suffered the loss of friends very dear to us. Some—close to this church. George West—choirboy. James Ballard, station-master and bell ringer, and the proud winner, only an hour before his death, of the Beldon Cup for his beautiful Miniver Rose. And our hearts go out in sympathy to the two families who share the cruel loss of a young girl who was married at this altar only two weeks ago. The homes of many of us have been destroyed, and the lives of young and old have been taken. There is scarcely a household that hasn't been struck to the heart. And why? Surely you must have asked yourself this question. Why, in all conscience, should these be the ones to suffer? Children, old people, a young girl at the height of her loveliness. Why these? Are these our soldiers? Are these our fighters? Why should they be sacrificed? I shall tell you why. Because this is not only a war of soldiers in uniform, it is a war of the people—of all the people—and it must be fought not only on the battlefield, but in the cities and in the villages, in the factories and on the farms, in the home and in the heart of every man, woman, and child who loves freedom! Well, we have buried our dead, but we shall not forget them. Instead, they will inspire us with an unbreakable determination to free ourselves and those who come after us from the tyranny and terror that threaten to strike us down! This is the people's war! It is our war! We are the fighters!

"Fight it, then! Fight it with all that is in us! And may God defend the right."

FROM THE RUSSIAN FRONT

Red Army Scouts reconnoitering.

The theatre of war: A signal corps man restoring the telephone communication between his unit and the command post during an engagement in the village Z.



The Karelian front: Tanks in an ambush.

Winter Comes, but Where is Nazi Victory?

By DAVID TUTAEFF

FOR the last two years Hitler has peddled the mirage of final victory to the only audience which could not help but listen to him—the German people.

But to-day the formula of final victory has undergone a profound change. The Royal Air Force statistically "annihilated" in the late summer of 1940, sends a thousand bombers over Cologne, Essen and Bremen. The Russian armies "conclusively" wiped out by Hitler's speech in October 1941, defy the Wehrmacht and wear its power down.

There is only one conclusive and undeniable fact which Hitler has to offer his people and his army. Another winter on the vast plains of the Don and the Kuban. Nor is the "white hell"—as German radio commentators aptly described the bitter cold and eternity of snow—any more gentle before Leningrad or the forests of Briansk.

GERMANY'S DILEMMA

Despite Hitler's heart-searchings last April, he could not help but admit to his tame Reichstag that he was compelled to take personal command because "nerves were at breaking point, obedience wavered . . ." In his "mea culpa" he went so far as to say that he had not made adequate preparations for the dreadful winter—a winter of 50 degrees below zero, far more terrible than the one which smote his predecessor, Napoleon.

Had the Fuehrer of the German Reich been more literary-minded, rather than literally-minded, he might have learnt from Tolstoy, and other Russian writers, that during a Russian winter only a mad man would march his men around in leather boots.

The dilemma facing Germany is this. Which is it to be—more arms for next year or more men fighting this year? Speer has chosen. Hitler has chosen. It is more men, more cannon-fodder to attempt the capture of Russian towns regardless of cost and the wiping out of the Russian armies.

DECLINE IN OUTPUT

With the army monopolising the most skilful and healthy of the German population, Hitler cannot hope for a period of inactivity during which to withdraw his man-power from the front to the factories. The winters of 1939–40 and 1940–41 will not repeat themselves. But the winter of 1941 with the Russian armies engaging the German hordes in countless local attacks—will repeat itself. Nor will the guerillas give them rest.

Whilst the army's fighting strength has been kept up by constant combing out of skilled factory personnel, a terrific strain has manifested itself behind the lines. Not only has the durability of machinery had to suffer, human stamina has been stretched. Germany's war effort reached its "ceiling" in the latter part of 1941. Since then there has been a marked decline both in the output of armaments and the productivity of labour.

This state of affairs may be contrasted with that of British and American economy. The fruits of planning, so long sneered at by German propagandists, are now giving the weapons to fling at Germany's heart.

CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS

The severe tension which is manifested in German industry, has been brought about by three factors: the Russian campaign, the British economic blockade, and heavy British bombardment of industrial and communication centres. The Royal Air Force this winter will not fail to make those "sore spots" still more sore. The indirect effects of bombing—dislocation and delay in industry and transport—are spreading in ever-widening circles.

The Nazi Labour Chief Sauckel pays an unwilling tribute to the efficacy of this "hitting-where-it-hurts-most" policy of the Royal Air Force. He has laid down that A.R.P. work must be given priority over war production of all kinds. If necessary workers must stop their shift even on the most important jobs in order to do emergency A.R.P. in other factories where bombs are falling. Sauckel says that "saving the nation's factories" from the Royal Air Force is an even more important job than producing munitions for the Russian front.

And meanwhile—like a melodramatic sequel in the cinema, the leaves of the calendar fall before German eyes. Even Himmler cannot control the passing of the seasons. October cannot be shot for sabotage, nor the winter confined in a concentration camp. And Hitler's "final victory" remains the mirage it always was and always will be.

Stalin's Master Plan

THE Red armies in the Middle Don are rapidly extending the gains in their clear-cut victory which is the worst blow that the Reichswehr has suffered this winter, writes Morley Richards in the *Daily Express*. The German High Command agree that they are withdrawing to the west "with their defence position broken in some places." In fact they are to a large extent retreating in disorder. Enemy armies in this strategically vital area have been broken. This is the third group which in six weeks has been deprived of its offensive power and a high proportion of its total strength.

This is no Soviet flash-in-the-pan. It becomes increasingly plain that Stalin with Marshal Shaposhnikov and his small group of military advisers had been working to a long-prepared plan which took months to organize. For one thing, Generals Golikov and Vatutin are using a quarter of a million men or more in this drive, with masses of material. Such a force took many weeks to assemble. In the German summer campaign the Russians allowed the enemy to reach the suburbs of Stalingrad. Its defenders were stretched to breaking point; yet Stalin held back divisions that were in existence and not far away. But he would not allow the enemy to stay in Voronezh. At cruel cost he was expelled from the city and chased to the west bank of the Don. Hitler was stretched further and further. Now he is overstretched. Of that there can be no doubt. Otherwise a big army on a 70-odd-mile front would not be retreating up to 100 miles and showing little sign of stopping its flight. Do not forget that at this time of year the Russians have their maximum mobility and the enemy their maximum immobility. Long-term possibilities arising from the three Soviet offensives are these: (1) the trapping of three German groups—in Caucasia, before Stalingrad, and the triangle between Millerovo, Rostov and Kotelnikov; (2) recovery of the Ukraine and the riches of the Donetz basin; and (3) a blow to the German army from which it could never recover.

The Russians have a long way to go before these things can happen. But the gains already secured—and the assurance from Stalin himself that this is by no means the

The death of Sir Sikhander Hyat Khan, who symbolised the great war effort of the Punjab, is mourned all over India. The above photograph shows Sir Sikhander chatting with a member of the Poona Horse during his visit to the Western Desert.

completion of the winter plan—leave little doubt that the whole of Hitler's tactical successes last summer are going to be nullified.

TO FOLLOW UP SUCCESS

The Russians are determined to follow up their Stalingrad success to its logical conclusion, which is the destruction of those German armies which have battered the city for three months, cables *The Times* Moscow correspondent.

In a 40 to 80-mile wide Russian belt, stretching from the western side of the Don bend south towards Kotelnikovo and beyond to the Russian held Volga country are caught 14 to 16 German divisions between 130,000 and 150,000 men. Soviet pressure, west, north and south is supplemented by further pressure from positions in Stalingrad itself.

There the Russians are pushing the Germans back towards the western outskirts, daily destroying dozens of firing points and dug-outs and recapturing many blocks of houses. In Stalingrad the Russians now have unquestionable superiority in guns. These have been replenished since a juncture was made with the Russian forces north of the city.

The German armies are enclosed in an area which is slowly becoming smaller daily. The diameter of the ring in which they are caught between Stalingrad in the east and point about 10 miles east of Kalach averages 25 to 30 miles. It is open country with few natural defences. Nearly all the troops encircled are Germans—those Germans who in August were writing letters home announcing the imminent fall of Stalingrad and an early end of the war.

GERMAN TRANSPORT PLANES IN ACTION

Transport planes are feeding and supplying them as best as they can. Such planes ultimately saved from destruction the German Sixteenth Army at Staraya Russa last spring. But the Russian corridor then was very slender and the break through was comparatively easy. To-day the Germans are faced with a wide Russian belt with considerable Russian forces which continue to be reinforced from both ends.

German transport planes have suffered heavy losses. During the two days when weather was relatively clear more than 100, including all sorts of passenger and postal planes not ordinarily used in war, were shot down.

In two respects the Germans have been lucky. The low clouds and blizzards have often made it impossible for Russian fighters to operate. This has enabled transport planes to operate with impunity. Then, the winter has so far been fairly mild and the Germans who are not adequately clothed have not felt its full rigour yet in the steppes.

Nevertheless, the Germans in the encircled area appear to be suffering great hardships. They are already living on iron rations, less than four to seven ounces of bread daily and not much else besides.

GERMAN PROSPECTS

How do the Germans estimate their own prospects? It is hard to say, but it is perhaps significant of their gloomy view of the situation that large numbers of their staff officers should have left the encircled area for the rear. But it is certain that the Germans will try to break out before they are frozen to death.

If they fail—and they have failed so far—they will expect the German forces from outside to come to their rescue. There are indications that an attempt to break through the Russian line is in preparation by the German troops brought by rail from the Caucasus.

The Stalingrad battle is not over yet but the Russian prospects at the moment are good. The casualties of the Germans and their Rumanian allies have been extremely heavy—incomparably heavier than those of the Russians.

ONE WORD

A story of a verbal victory scored by an Indian soldier over a German officer is told by prisoners of war, captured in the Western Desert, and released following the Eighth Army's victorious drive.

Two Sikhs were being interrogated by a Nazi officer, who, after asking why they were fighting against the Axis, attempted to convince them that the Germans' only wish was to "free the down-trodden peoples of the world".

With a chuckle a Sikh havildar recounted how he replied with the single word "Poland".

After that the German officer gave it up.

Soviet Submarines Busy

NOT so long ago the *Deutsche Zeitung in Norwegen* published an article by Lieutenant-Colonel Kerman, adjutant to the Commander-in-chief of the German forces in North Europe, Dietl, entitled "Why The German Troops Have Not Yet Occupied Murmansk."

The author says: "Many ask why the Germans have not yet occupied Murmansk. I shall try to explain. In Lapland German troops are fighting who have been there since the beginning of the campaign. Since then we have received no reinforcements. Fighting has been very severe and the difficulties baffle description. The devil himself invented the tundra for the benefit of the Bolsheviks. In our rear, we have to fight partisans and regular troops who filter their way through."

THE REASON

Why does not General Dietl receive reinforcements? Firstly, because Germany's reserves are not unlimited. Secondly, because the few reserves which Hitler does dispatch to the north do not reach their destination.

Dietl's army is supplied by sea, by way of the Norwegian coast. And along this sea lane German transports are faced by a serious obstacle—the Soviet submarine fleet.

Especial credit in harassing Germany's sea communications is due to the guards submarines D3, M171 and M174 and to submarines M172, Sh402 and Sh421, which have been decorated with the Order of the Red Banner. Each of these submarines has destroyed not less than 50,000 tons of enemy shipping.

CONTEMPTUOUS OF DANGER

The submarines of the Soviet Northern Sea Fleet not only sink German transports on the open seas; time and again, overcoming all obstacles and contemptuous of danger, they have penetrated into enemy harbours and sunk German vessels lying at their moorings.

In forcing their way into enemy harbours, besides mines and wire-netting, the Soviet submarines have to encounter even more serious dangers. Some of the fjords are so narrow that submarines cannot turn in them while under water. After the attack they have to grope their way blindly out of the harbour. To raise the periscope above the surface, even for a single second, would lead to the instant betrayal of the submarine. Submarine barriers, surface vessels with their depth charges, aircraft and shore batteries—all lie in wait for the submarine that is daring enough to penetrate into an enemy harbour.

Nevertheless, Soviet submarines continue to pay visits to German sea bases.

NAVIGATION CONDITIONS

Navigation conditions in the Barents Sea are very stern. Cold winds give rise to dense mists; storms often reach hurricane violence. However, Soviet submarines have learned to cruise in any weather. It is interesting to note that many German transports were sunk during the Arctic nights, when it would seem they enjoyed maximum concealment and security from attack.

In spite of all the Germans' efforts to improve their defences against submarines, their communications are kept under constant menace, and reports are received almost daily of German transports sunk by Soviet submarines.

And the Soviet Northern Fleet, supported by the British Navy, helps the submarines in their arduous tasks.

British Raids on Germany

THERE are abundant signs that the blitz attacks on Germany's key industrial centres have begun to shake the morale of the working population in the Ruhr and the Rhineland, writes Mallory Browne in the *Observer*.

There are indications that saturation point is being approached in the efforts of the Nazi authorities to absorb evacuees and re-clothe and re-house those who have lost their homes and possessions by bombing.

One important point is often overlooked in assessing the effectiveness of the bomber raids on Germany. It is often said that just as the German raids on Britain failed to have any conclusive effect on our own war production so the British raids on the Reich cannot hope to disrupt war production there. This fails to take account of a very fundamental difference in the two cases.

In 1940 and the first half of 1941, Britain was just beginning to expand its war industry. There was plenty of slack to be taken up. There was abundance of labour for clearing and demolition purposes. There were plenty of factories of civilian work which could be switched over to war work in replacement of those plants that were knocked out. Above all, there were enough empty houses to take care of the evacuees and the homeless. In Germany to-day the opposite is the case.

Admittedly, it must be kept in the perspective. No one suggests that our offensive against the Axis is to be restricted to bombing. It is not even proposed that all our air resources are to be directed to bombing alone. But Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris has been able to say without contradiction recently that what he has achieved has been done in spite of the fact that he has only been able to use 10 per cent of Britain's first line aircraft strength for his raids on Germany.

Air Transport of Tomorrow

By GLENN L. MARTIN

WHAT'S ahead for aircraft in peace and war?

I am not a military expert. But I have spent a lifetime in the design and production of military aircraft. In 1913 it was my privilege to help conduct the United States Army's first bombardment experiments. So fascinated was I with the airplane's demolition possibilities that I made this statement, culled from newspapers of August 7, 1914, which were headlining the beginning of the first World War.

"The aeroplane will practically decide the war in Europe. Veritable flying death will smash armies, wreck mammoth battleships, and bring the whole world to a vivid realization of the awful possibilities of a few men and a few swift aerial demons. For the old-time war tactics are no more. The generals who realize this quickest and fight first with the flying death, will win."

I was one war too early in making that prediction. But to-day we find air forces the most powerful influence in victories; lack of them, the outstanding cause of defeats. No armed force can be successful in any major project without air supremacy in its theatre of war.

VERSATILE CRAFT

Few people stop to consider the versatility of aircraft in this war. In addition to its more spectacular functions of bombardment and defence, the airplane is maid-of-all-work for the armed services. It performs long-range reconnaissance, patrol and scouting work for both Army and Navy. It transports troops and heavy loads of supplies at high speed. It is a moving and elusive machine-gun nest. In some situations it is a basic supply source for land forces.

Too few understand the power of the airplane—rather, the fleet of airplanes—as long-range artillery. For purpose of contrast, suppose word arrives at a battleship station that a hostile force has been sighted 1,000 miles away. The battleship is stocked with supplies and ready for battle. In 38 hours, if the enemy target has not moved too far, the battleship can overtake it and fire a salvo of nine tons of explosives.

Now suppose a fleet of 150 bombers, costing about the same as a battleship, gets word of the force 1,000 miles away. Six and a half hours later these planes discharge 750 tons of explosives on the target; in 38 hours, after three trips, 2,250 tons of bombs will have fallen on the objective. Even a continuous cannonade from the battleship could not approach the destructive power unleashed by the air fleet.

Again, the extreme mobility of great naval air forces would answer in large part America's need for a two-ocean navy. A powerful air force can serve in either the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans in full strength on short notice.

BUILT LARGEST FLYING BOAT

The subject of the very large airplane is dear to me because my company made the first transoceanic clippers. We have tested recently the world's largest flying boat, the 70-ton "Mars"—a plane three times the size of the China Clipper. Such ships have a definite place in naval and military plans; they carry extremely heavy bomb loads, they carry large numbers of men or large cargoes, and their ocean-landing and take-off areas are unassailable. Bombs can't make a hole in water.

Commercially, the extremely large air vessels have a great future. Organized air-line travel not only has been the safest means of transport since the war began, but it was safer for several years before the war. In the future, it will be safer yet, largely because of developments during the war.

The world is destined to have winged vessels larger than we have yet dreamed of. Transoceanic operations are at present based on aircraft having a gross weight of slightly more than 40 tons. These flying boats can carry a payload of about 4,000 pounds for 3,000 or 4,000 miles, depending on head winds and fuel reserve needed, a technical achievement considered impossible a few years ago.

Out of the perils of war is coming, paradoxically, safety for post-war air travel. The very instruments by which we locate hostile aircraft and assail them will assure both air and surface craft safe passage in any weather.

HIS MISTAKE

A workman was called in to do some repairs to an A.R.P. warden's post, and before he started his labours he looked round for something to stand on. Spotting a rough wooden structure, he picked it up.

"Hi, what are you doing with that?" exclaimed the warden on duty.

"I'm only borrowing this soap-box to stand on. I wont hurt it."

"Soap-box be hanged! That's our chief warden's roll-top desk."

Russia's "Secret Weapons"

By EMIL LENGYEL

FROM the Arctic to the sun-parched Kirghiz steppes, from the Baltic to the Pacific Ocean, the Soviet Union is training tens of millions of its people to be "secret weapons." Young boys of 16 and men of 60, girls of 18 and women of 50 are drilling in the tent settlements of the slant-eyed Mongols, in the Buriat villages of the Lake Baikal region, on the plains of perennially frozen Lapland.

These millions of secret weapons are preparing to defend every inch of Russian soil. While they are on the alert, the Soviet Union is not beaten. Theirs is the world's largest civilian-defence army.

Because of the work of this organization, the Soviet's pool of manpower is never exhausted. The army and guerilla forces can call on it for huge numbers of men who are already partly trained for warfare. "The miracle of the winter of 1941" might never have come to pass without this great civilian force.

"A NATION IN ARMS"

The tongue-twisting, telescoped name of this organization is "Osoaviakhim," which means Society for Assistance in Defence and in Aviation-Chemical Construction. All Soviet citizens, unless physically incapacitated, must join it to learn how to deal with incendiary bombs and poison gases. They must lend a hand in improvising air raid shelters, building up the terrain for home defence and other such tasks. That is the compulsory part of the programme.

It also has a voluntary branch with about 20,000,000 members. Such members take training in parachute jumping and many other special military activities.

"A nation in arms" would be a correct description of the real nature of the Osoaviakhim. In its essence it is a nationwide preparatory school of both sexes and all arms-bearing ages to stem the enemy tide.

MANIFOLD DUTIES

That rifle fire one hears in the depth of the woods of the Siberian forest belt comes from a target range of the Society. There, high-cheek-boned natives compete with one another to qualify for the title of "Voroshilov Sharpshooter."

Vicious-looking anti-aircraft guns are manned by young girls and their mothers, by bearded peasants and their grandsons—all members of the Society.

Their gnarled peasant fingers are also taught to handle sensitive machine-guns, to transmit signals, to use the field telephone. They are taught to see the terrain with a soldier's eyes. They are instructed in taking advantage of the terrain, and in helping the military by scouting and patrolling.

IMPORTANT ROLE

The more skilful among them are taught to handle the deadliest of modern warfare weapons, such as the flame-throwers. They, who learned to read only yesterday, now learn to read the mysteries of military maps.

Members of the Society are being taught to race on skis. Last winter many of them sailed into the midst of enemy troops and demoralized them. Members of the Society are also taught to take military advantage of their knowledge of the horse.

While the Society is not, strictly speaking, a military organization and is not an official part of any of the armed forces, large numbers of its members have joined the army or the guerilla bands, and some of them have achieved great fame.

When the history of the Soviets' resistance to the invaders is written, an important chapter will be devoted to the work of the Osoaviakhim—the people of Russia in arms.

—(Condensed from *New York Herald—Tribune*).

OH!

A Soldier whose main trouble was extreme talkativeness, was on escort duty with a corporal, taking an important prisoner to headquarters.

Before starting, he had been told that on no account was he to speak; a bet of a packet of cigarettes had been made that he couldn't remain silent until reaching headquarters.

They went in single file, the soldier quite mute.

On arriving at headquarters, the corporal without looking round, said, "Well, Tommy, you've won the bet."

"Yes," replied Tommy, "but you nearly had me when the prisoner escaped."

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

17th Dec.—The Royal Air Force raided targets in France and Belgium.

18th Dec.—German daylight raiders crossed the coast south and south-east of England in a number of places. About 20 towns and villages were attacked. Two Nazi aircraft were destroyed.

19th Dec.—Although two prominent Cabinet Ministers were unsympathetic, if not hostile, Mr. Churchill himself put the Beveridge Report on the official map.

The Royal Air Force raided western and north-western Germany. Eighteen bombers failed to return.

21st Dec.—Mr. Amery launched the *Narbada*, a new flagship of the R.I.N.

22nd Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked Duisberg.

23rd Dec.—The Royal Air Force bombed Munich.

24th Dec.—The Royal Air Force swept over France and Holland.

25th Dec.—The Royal Air Force raided France and Belgium.

31st Dec.—The Royal Air Force made sweeps over Northern France. An invasion warning was broadcast to the French people.

1st Jan. 1943.—A naval engagement took place between German and British units in the North Sea. An enemy destroyer was sunk. " Germany will not collapse, " boasted Hitler in a New Year Order of the Day.

2nd Jan.—The Royal Air Force swept over Northern France.

United States bombers attacked St. Nazaire docks.

6th Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Ruhr.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

24th Dec.—According to a New York message, the Germans brought heavy pressure on Spain for permission to occupy Balearic Islands in western Mediterranean.

25th Dec.—Mr. H. L. Stimson, the United States Secretary for War, said at a Press Conference: " Christmas this year holds better prospects for the United Nations than the Christmas a year ago."

30th Dec.—Mr. Henry A. Wallace, Vice-President of the United States, spoke on " America's part in world reconstruction."

31st Dec.—President Roosevelt confirmed that General de Gaulle was coming to the United States.

1st Jan. 1943.—Stalin was named " The Man of the Year " for 1942 by the *Time* Magazine, New York.

5th Jan.—Mr. Joseph Grew, United States Ambassador to Japan, in a broadcast, characterised the Japanese as a " relentless and brutal foe."

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

17th Dec.—Chittagong area was again raided. Three enemy planes were destroyed.

United States planes raided Myohaung in Burma.

18th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked a Japanese-occupied village in the Maungdaw-Pathidaung area in Burma.

Japanese aircraft again raided Chittagong and Feni.

20th Dec.—Allied troops moved into Burma and pushed into Arakan. The Royal Air Force bombed Akyab and Rathedaung.

Calcutta was bombed for the first time.

21st Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked Toungoo aerodrome.

23rd Dec.—There were two more raids on Calcutta. Casualties and damage were slight.

The Royal Air Force raided Akyab area.

24th Dec.—The U.S. planes raided Rangoon.

25th Dec.—Allied troops occupied a district in Burma. United States planes raided Lashio.

26th Dec.—Calcutta was again bombed.

" Les Miserables "

A German film star visited Hollywood. She met a famous director. "Do you know," she said, "that we have just produced a film in Germany with a cast of 30,000?"

"That's nothing," declared the American. "We often make films with 50,000 people in the cast." The film star was silent, but on her return to the Reich she told Hitler about it—and annoyed the Fuehrer very much.

"Why didn't you answer the fellow?" he cried. "You should have told him that in Germany we are making *Les Miserables* with a cast of 80,000,000."

The Royal Air Force raided the Magwe aerodrome in Burma.

General Wavell, in a message to the fighting forces, said: "The War has now entered a new phase!"

27th Dec.—Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, Premier of the Punjab, died of heart disease.

29th Dec.—Calcutta was again raided. A Japanese bomber was shot down.

United States planes raided Bangkok.

31st Dec.—The United States aircraft raided Rangoon.

1st Jan. 1943.—General Wavell, Commander-in-Chief of India, was made Field Marshal.

4th Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Magwe aerodrome in Burma.

21st Dec.—Allied troops advanced in Tripolitania. Targets at Buerat were bombed.

22nd Dec.—Rommel's retreat continued. The Allied troops reached Sultan.

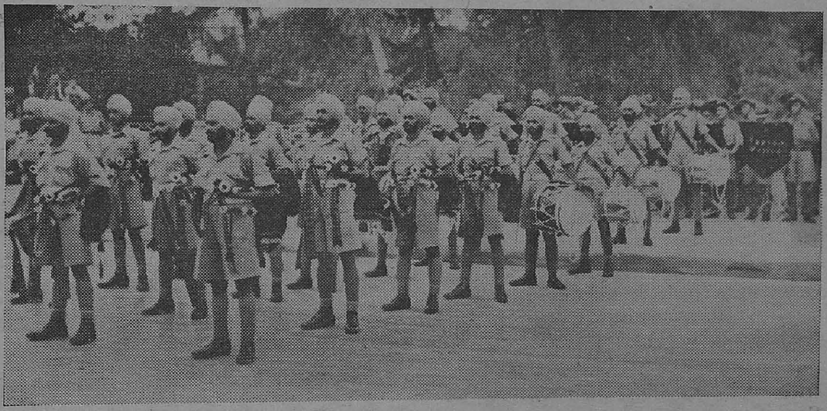
23rd Dec.—Rommel's retreating forces reached Misurata.

24th Dec.—Allied troops were near Buerat. Two enemy vessels were sunk in the Mediterranean.

Admiral Darlan was assassinated by a Frenchman.

25th Dec.—Rommel's forces were pushed beyond Misurata. French forces beat back Germans in Tunisia. Allied bombers raided Lampedusa.

British advanced units reached Buerat.



CYPRUS VOLUNTARY FORCE.—The Indian Drum and Pipe Band playing in Nicosia, Cyprus.

7th Jan.—The Royal Air Force bombed the Mandalay railway junction.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

17th Dec.—Rommel was in full retreat in Tripolitania.

18th Dec.—Battle was joined with Rommel's retreating forces 50 miles west of El Agheila. German panzer division was encircled. Allied aircraft hammered Axis troops.

In an exclusive press interview, Admiral Darlan stated that the French Fleet units at Dakar, Alexandria and North African ports would join the British and United States fleet and fight the Axis.

19th Dec.—Rommel's trapped forces were able to break out after suffering heavy losses.

Britain reached a working agreement with Darlan.

20th Dec.—Axis forces evacuated Nofilia. Bizerta was heavily bombed.

26th Dec.—Darlan's assassin was executed by the orders of a French court martial.

British troops occupied Sirte. Allied troops were within 12 miles of Tunis.

28th Dec.—General Giraud succeeded Darlan as French Commander-in-Chief in North Africa.

29th Dec.—Rommel's forces were contacted beyond Sirte.

30th Dec.—French Somaliland joined the Allies.

31st Dec.—Allied aircraft bombed Tunis and Sousse.

1st Jan. 1943.—Twelve persons were arrested in Algiers on a charge of attempting to assassinate high officials, including General Giraud.

Mr. Harold MacMillan was appointed Minister Resident at Allied Headquarters in North-west Africa.

2nd Jan.—The Royal Air Force raided Gabes and Sousse.

3rd Jan.—Casablanca was bombed.

4th Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked Crete and Palermo in Sicily.

5th Jan.—The Germans attacked the French troops at Pichon. Nineteen Axis planes were shot down over La Goulette.

7th Jan.—General Montgomery prepared for the final attack. Buerat fell into Allied hands.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

17th Dec.—The Red Army captured a key point in the Caucasus.

18th Dec.—Nazi attempts to cut through the Soviet ring at Verkhue Kumsky failed.

19th Dec.—German thrust south-west of Stalingrad was shattered.

21st Dec.—German defences were pierced on the Don front. There was fierce fighting in Voronezh area.

22nd Dec.—The Red Army entered Velikie Lukie. The German position was "grave on the Don front.

23rd Dec.—The Germans fell back on Voroshilovgrad. Soviet troops advanced on Millerovo.

24th Dec.—The Red Army captured Kamensk.

26th Dec.—The Russians assumed offensive in the Caucasus. Nazis were pressed back at Nalchik.

28th Dec.—The Russians retook Katsynskaya.

29th Dec.—The Russians by-passed Millerovo and pushed to Rostov.

30th Dec.—Kotelinikovo was captured by the Russians.

1st Jan. 1943.—The Red Army crossed the Terek river and advanced on a 130-mile front.

2nd Jan.—The Russians advanced on Rostov. Velikie Lukie was captured and the German garrison wiped out.

3rd Jan.—Russians drove deeper into Hitler's crumbling winter defence, exploiting their victories at Velikie Lukie and Elister.

4th Jan.—The Russians captured Mozdok. They were 20 miles from Nalchik.

5th Jan.—The Red Army captured Chernishkovskaya and Mozdok.

6th Jan.—The Russians took Nalchik.

7th Jan.—The Germans withdrew to Rostov and Crimea.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

21st Dec.—An Iberian bloc was formed by Spain and Portugal.

30th Dec.—Many Turkish families living in Bulgaria near the Turkish border moved inland.

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SHIPPING

18th Dec.—The British submarine *Unbeaten* was lost.

2nd Jan. 1943.—The British destroyer *Blean* was lost.

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THE FAR EAST

17th Dec.—The Japanese landed reinforcements on Mambare and Kumusi between Lae and Buna.

18th Dec.—Buna was "busted" by American troops.

19th Dec.—General MacArthur's forces closed in on the last Japanese positions near Buna and North Guinea.

United States bombers devastated the Gialam aerodrome.

20th Dec.—Seven Japanese ships were sunk in the Pacific by submarines.

21st Dec.—Cape Endaiadere was captured.

22nd Dec.—Allied forces launched a general attack in the Buna Mission area.

24th Dec.—Japanese installations in Timor were raided.

25th Dec.—Japanese fortifications were breached in several places in Buna.

28th Dec.—General Tojo, Japanese Prime Minister, said: "Real War has only started now."

29th Dec.—The Japanese bombarded Buna.

1st Jan. 1943.—Two Japanese ships were sunk at Rabaul.

2nd Jan.—United States aircraft raided Wake Island and Kiska.

The Japanese base at Lae was bombed and 21 planes were destroyed.

3rd Jan.—Japanese invasion units were thrown back on China coast.

4th Jan.—Lae and Salamua were raided. Allied troops captured Buna Government Station.

Seven Japanese ships were sunk by U.S. submarines.

5th Jan.—Japanese position in Buna area was described as "hopeless." A Japanese destroyer was damaged off Guadalcanar.

Admiral Halsey (United States) predicted that Admiral Yamamoto would be present in White House for an American dictated peace.

7th Jan.—Nine Japanese ships were destroyed in Rabaul harbour.

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